(b) whether it is also a fact that Air India will require eighteen aircrafts for Air India Express to be launched in April 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Air India plans for flying to new destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has prepared a revised fleet plan for Air India and Air India Express which, *inter-alia*, includes proposal for acquisition of 18 aircraft for operations by Air India Express.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Air India and Air India Express propose to operate to several additional international destinations which include new services/ points in USA, Canada, UK, Italy, Russia, Korea, China, Taiwan, Australia, Nigeria, Mauritius, South Africa and Gulf.

Airport Eeconomic Regulatory Authority

434. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute Airport Economic Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, what would be its composition and the main functions proposed to be assigned to it; and

(c) by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposal for setting up of an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is under consideration of the Government.

Air Service Between Kanpur and Delhi

435. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2003 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to operate daily flight services between Kanpur and Delhi and *vice-versa* so far; and

(b) by when it is likely to be started?